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TROPICAL FOREST NOTES



INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL FORESTRY RIO PIEDRAS, PUERTO RICO*

No. 7

SAWMILLS AND SUPPLIERS OF WOOD IN PUERTO RICO

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Most wood used in construction, millwork, furniture, and similar uses in Puerto Rico is imported. Only a small fraction of the wood used in manufacture comes from native timber, although several species are of cabinet wood quality. We frequently receive requests as to where local wood can be obtained. This Research Note lists the known sawmills and suppliers of native wood as determined by visits to them during March 1961. Collectively these sawmills and suppliers did not cut over a few thousand board feet of lumber during 1960.

Most sawmills cut the lumber for their own use, but some will custom saw logs for a customer. This means that the customer has to make arrangements to deliver the logs to the mill site, and to remove the lumber soon after it is cut since the mills have no adequate lumber-drying yards. Some mills may have a few pieces of dried lumber available, however.

The known sawmills in Puerto Rico as of March 1961 are listed in Table 1.

Table 1.--Known sawmills in Puerto Rico as of March 1961

Name	Mill Location	Mailing Address
<u>Active sawmills</u>		
Taller Colón	Km 19.2 Hw 159	Box 246A, Corozal
Taller San Rafael ^{1/}	Quebradillas	Quebradillas
<u>Inactive but expect to mill in the near future</u>		
Taller Cortés	Km 5.2, Utuado	Box 305, Utuado
Taller Echevarría	Lares	Box 295, Lares
El Guacio Crafts	Km 31.6 Hw 119	Box 498, San Sebastián
<u>Inactive, no plans for future milling</u>		
Fiberdyne Corp.	Km 20 Hw 2	Ponce
Hato Rey Commercial, Inc.	Sabana Abajo	524 Ponce de León Ave., Rio Piedras
Sucs. de Esmoris	Mayaguez	68 Calle Comercio, Mayaguez

^{1/} Cuts for own use primarily.

* Operated in cooperation with the University of Puerto Rico.



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The first five mills listed have cut capá prieto (Cordia alliodora), capá blanco (Petitia domingensis), laurel geo (Ocotea leucoxylon), cedro hembra (Cedrela odorata), guaraguao (Guarea trichilioides), roble (Tabebuia heterophylla), maría (Calophyllum brasiliense), and tabonuco (Dacryodes excelsa). The sawn lumber ranges in price from 13 cents to 30 cents a board foot, the price depending on the species and the size of the lumber.

In addition to the sawmills listed, there are 16 suppliers of native wood located mainly in the vicinity of San Sebastián and Moca. These suppliers cut, square, and halve the logs by hand so that the final dimensions can be cut on a ten to twelve-inch circular table saw. They may cut any species available or ordered, but they usually cut guaraguao in 3- to 10-foot lengths. These suppliers are:

1. Isabel Pérez, Bo. Capá, Moca
2. José Nieves, Box 284, Moca
3. Prudencio Pla, Box 90, Moca
4. Juan Quiñones, Box 114, Moca
5. Serapio Ramos Lasalle, Box 99, Moca
6. Herminio Nieves, Box 43, San Sebastián
7. Luis Irizarry, Bo. Altosano, Box 595, San Sebastián
8. Manuel Ortega, Bo. Rocha, San Sebastián
9. Juan Molina, Bo. Calabazas, San Sebastián
10. Audeliz Alemán, Box 449, San Sebastián
11. Gumersindo Camacho, Bo. Juncal, San Sebastián
12. Rafael Román, c/o Santos Ramos, Box 36, San Sebastián
13. Dionisio Ortiz, Box 595, San Sebastián
14. José A. Rivera, Box 184, Maricao
15. José Santiago, La Quinta Arriba, Balboa 30, Mayaguez
16. Campos del Toro, Ciales

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